

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----201736Z 117740 /42

O 201545Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5615

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0076

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM EDMONDSON AND BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF

SUBJ: COMMENT ON TALKS WITH SCOTT AND HAWKINS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0073 AND 0074

1. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE SLIGHT BUT INTERESTING VARIATION BETWEEN REFTELS REPORTING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS HELD ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT AND RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS. SINCE BOTH SOURCES READ FROM OR SHOWED US THEIR OWN REPORTING, WE DO NOT THINK VARIATIONS WERE FOR OUR BENEFIT, BUT RATHER REVEAL SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT VORSTER TOLD HAWKINS.

2. HAWKINS APPARENTLY DID NOT TELL SCOTT THAT IDEA FOR SMITH MEETING RICHARD TWICH CAME IN FACT FROM VORSTER. EDMONDSON DOUBLE-CHECKED THIS POINT WITH SCOTT WHO CONFIRMED HIS IMPRESSION THAT IDEA "CAME ENTIRELY FROM UP NORTH AND NOT FROM THE LOCAL MAN." SCOTT REGARDED THIS AS POSSIBLY ENCOURAGING SIGN OF SMITH'S ATTITUDE.

3. ALTHOUGH HAWKINS WOULD HARDLY HAVE DESCRIBED HIS SESSIONS AS AN "EAR BASHING," WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS THAT VORSTER
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SHOWED A VERY STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUED. HIS SUGGESTION THAT SMITH NEGOTIATE FOR AS MUCH AS HE CAN GET AND THAT HE SEE RICHARD A SECOND TIME THIS ROUND MUST BE SEEN IN THIS LIGHT.

RM VORSTER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE BRITISH PLAN AS NOTHING NEW IS UNSURPRISING AS HE HAS HAD ALL THE DETAILS

BEFORE.

HIS APPROACH WAS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF SUPPORTING THE
IDEA OF KEEPING THE PROCESS OF TALKING OPEN WITHOUT
ENDORING ANY PARTICULAR SOLUTION.

5. VORSTER'S HANDLING OF RICHARD AND HAWKINS SUPPORTS
THE CONCLUSION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SOLUTION IN
RHODESIA, PREFERABLY ON TERMS FAVORABLE TO THE WHITES, IN
ORDER TO AVOID CATASTROPHIC DEVELOPMENTS THERE THAT WOULD
INEVITABLY INVOLVE SOUTH AFRICA. AT THE SAME TIME HE DOES
NOT WANT TO SEE THE SOLUTION BROUGHT ABOUT IN A WAY THAT
COULD CAUSE ACCUSATIONS OF A SELLOUT IN SOUTH AFRICA'S
DOMESTIC POLITICS. THUS HE WILL SEEK TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS
OPEN AND WILL PROBABLY TRY TO EDGE SMITH TOWARD NEGOTIATION
OF THE BRITISH PROPOSALS, EMPHASIZING CHANGES THAT WOULD
FAVOR THE WHITES--BUT WILL NOT PUSH SMITH SO HARD AS TO
CAUSE ANY SORT OF BACKLASH OR PROBLEMS AT HOME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, PAPERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840086-0978
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdlm.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74f407d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 73, 77 CAPE TOWN 74
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3551259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENT ON TALKS WITH SCOTT AND HAWKINS
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, PDEV, RH, SF, UK, (SCOTT, DAVID), (HAWKINS, HAROLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74f407d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009